

Serial No.: 10/075,970

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REMARKS

Status of the claims

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-21 and 46-48 are pending in the application.

Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found, for example, in original claim 16.

Support for new claim 48 can be found, for example, in paragraph [0038] of the specification.

No new matter is added.

Rejection over Eury and Bolz

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9-21, 46 and 47 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eury US 5,443,458 in view of Bolz et al. US 6,287,332 (Bolz). This rejection and its accompanying remarks are respectfully traversed for the reasons of record.

Moreover, this rejection is believed to be moot in view of the above amendment to claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Rejection over Eury, Bolz and Langer

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eury in view of Bolz and Langer et al. US 6,160,084 (Langer). This rejection and its accompanying remarks are respectfully traversed for the reasons of record.

Moreover, this rejection is believed to be moot in view of the above amendment to claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits all pending claims are in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application at large, request is made that the

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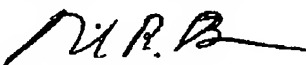
Examiner telephone the Applicant's attorney at (703) 433-0510 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved.

FEES

If there are any fees due and owing in respect to this amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge such fees to deposit account number 50-1047.

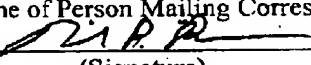
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Respectfully submitted,


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Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this document and any document referenced herein is being sent to the United States Patent and Trademark office via Facsimile to: 571-273-8300 on 4/10/2008

David B. Bonham
(Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)

(Signature)